

Remarks

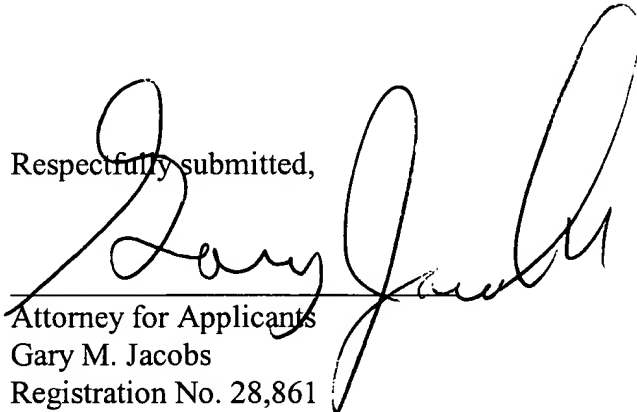
In this Supplemental Amendment Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to recite that the elastic member mounting step mounts an elastic member at a position spaced from the toner accommodating portion and spaced from a longitudinal end of an end seal provided adjacent each of opposite longitudinal ends of the developing roller dismounted in said developing roller dismounting step or another developing roller, and so that the entire length of the elastic member contacts the end seal.

In contrast, Figure 6 of the Uehara, et al. patent is understood to show that only part of the length of auxiliary seal members 62 contacts the side sealing members 55. And since the Office Action relies on the Uehara, et al. patent to show the structure of the elastic member recited in the claims, Applicants submit that for this additional reason, the Office has not yet established a prima facie case of obviousness against amended independent Claim 1. Further, since independent Claims 5, 14, and 18 have been amended in a similar manner, they are also allowable for similar reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks and the amendments and remarks in the July 1, 2004 Amendment, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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